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# THE CLASSICAL JOURNAL

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## Editorial

### THE AMERIKA-INSTITUT

Those of us who have traveled abroad, and especially those who have attempted study or research in foreign countries, will remember the vexing delays, difficulties, and set-backs of every sort incident to that attempt. These difficulties are caused in part by an imperfect knowledge of the language, and in part by an ignorance of the customs and institutions of the country. The student has looked in vain for some friendly general bureau of information and aid which would meet his particular needs and put him in the way of his work pleasantly and quickly; and as a consequence much valuable time is often lost in "learning the ropes" and getting settled finally to one's task.

So far as Germany is concerned, these difficulties seem to have been fairly removed by the establishment of the *Amerika-Institut* by the German government, as announced by Mr. Hugo Münsterberg, who has been appointed first director of the *Institut*. It will be seen that not only the smaller, more individual needs of scholars, as described above, are met, but also the need for closer relations and a better understanding between the institutions of the two nations is recognized.

In order that the organization and purpose of the *Institut* may be more fully understood we quote from the director's announcement:

I beg to bring to your notice the formal opening of the *Amerika-Institut* in the Royal Library Building at Berlin. The *Institut* is a foundation of the German government. The staff comprises scientific workers, librarians, translators, American and German secretaries, and so on; its organization has been intrusted to me. I am to be in honorary capacity the director of the *Institut* during its first year, while I am staying as Harvard exchange professor at the University of Berlin.

The general aim of the *Institut* is the systematic furthering of the cultural relations between Germany and the United States. Strictly political and commercial affairs lie outside of its realm, but every-

thing which refers to education and scholarship, to literature and art, to technique and social welfare, to travel and public interests, to peace and international understanding, will be the fit object of its efforts. While the political relations of the countries have always been organized, the cultural connections have been the results of chance influences which have brought about a wasteful scattering of energies and often a disappointing and even harmful outcome. The *Institut* is the first effort to organize and to forward these mutual interests of two great nations. We hope it may lead to the founding of similar governmental institutions for cultural relations with foreign countries among all the leading nations of the world.

In confining our work to Germany and America, we are trying to aid Americans who seek contact with German institutions and scholars, libraries and archives, laboratories and museums, hospitals and academies, industrial establishments and municipal works, and in a corresponding way Germans who need connections with American institutions or personalities. We try to further international congresses and researches, exhibitions and expeditions, statistical inquiries and historical investigations. We are engaged in increasing the circulation of American books in Germany and of German books in America. The whole exchange between the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and its correspondents in Germany, the transmission of official documents, and the arrangements for copyrights will be undertaken by our *Institut*, which will also have its own extensive American library. We shall systematically encourage the translation of American books into German and of German books into English. An important part of our function will be the informing of institutions: for instance, in the interest of the American students we shall advise the German universities concerning the relative value of the degrees of the six hundred American colleges. In short, we shall devote our services to everything which removes possible misunderstandings and promotes the cultural friendship, which indirectly may also work toward harmonious political and commercial relations.

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#### CURRENT EVENTS

We announced in the October number of the *Journal* the establishment of "Current Events" as an independent department, the same to present everything that is properly news, such as occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. While such news is not of paramount importance when compared with other features of the *Journal*, it certainly is of great interest and value, and this department is therefore well worth the support of all our readers.

By reference to p. 136 of the present number, the reader will see the name and address of the associate editor who is responsible for the news from his section, and is urged to send in to this officer without solicitation memoranda or accounts of whatever he may deem worthy of mention in his institution or locality.